THE Seaman's Opinion OF A Standing Army IN ENGLAND,

In Oppoſition to a

FLEET at Sea,

As the beſt Security of this Kingdom.

In a LETTER to a Merchant,
Written by a SAILOR.

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THE Seaman's Opinion OF A Standing Army, &c.

SIR,

I Have read with no ſmall conſideration, the Arguments for and againſt a Standing Army, ſo warmly argued on both ſides; one making of falſe Weights and Meaſures, and allowing nothing to be true Weight that is not weigh'd at the Court-Beam; while the others lay their Reaſons and Arguments in the Peoples Scale, and weigh the common Intereſt and our Conſtitution againſt the Court-Projects. I muſt confeſs, the latter are much in the right; for Laws were made for the general Good of all the Subjects, and are by no means to be altered to the prejudice of the People: The Engliſh Conſtitution has no reſpect to thoſe future Contingences and Emergences which may happen to crowned Heads. Our Fore-fathers thought thoſe Laws which were of Force and Virtue enough to keep them in the poſſeſſion of their Eſtates, equally powerful to ſecure the Regalities of the Crown to the King, and would be alike advantageous to their

Poſterity; and I know no Reaſon why we ſhould be of another Opinion.

The main Reaſon the Court-party offers for a Standing Army, is the entire Confidence we may repoſe in the King, on the account of the heroick Virtues inherent in him, and his firm and ſincere Intentions to the preſervation of the Nation, and the Rights of the Subject; ſo that if the People of *England* do not truſt the King with their Lives, Liberties and Eſtates, they would inſinuate as if they did miſtruſt him. I may know my Neighbour to be a very honeſt Man, and yet have no occaſion to truſt him with the Deeds of my Eſtate, my Money or Goods: nor need the People exchange *Magna Charta* for the King's Letters Patents for their Liberties *durante beneplacito*; for ſo it muſt be when he is arm'd with Force at any time to take it away. I have as much, nay a greater Eſteem for the Royal and Princely Virtues of his Majeſty, than any Courtier of them all; and though I could truſt the King with a great deal, yet I ſhould not care to truſt them with a little. A Government ſettled by the People of *England* ought to be maintained by them; and without doubt the People will maintain a King in thoſe Rights and Prerogatives they have granted and confirmed to him, otherwiſe it will be a Reflection which hitherto has not happened upon them: but to maintain a Government upon any other Principles, than ſuch on which it is founded, is ridiculous. The Superſtructure ought to be conform to the Foundation, the Building otherwiſe is irregular and inartificial; and for the People to undermine the Foundation of their Liberties, and raze it to the ground, only to build a Pyramid of Honour, or a Triumphal Arch for a Prince, is downright Nonſenſe. A Government ought to be ſupported; but it muſt be conſider'd withal how it deviated from its Inſtitution: when we know what a Government is, we can quickly find fit Props to ſupport it, and fit Force to defend it. 'Tis pity there ſhould be a diſtinction betwixt the King, and the Government, which yet muſt be allowed when the Courtiers call themſelves the Government: As a certain Perſon was committed to the

the Cuſtody of a Meſſenger by the Secretary's Warrant, for *publiſhing and diſperſing a ſeditious and ſcandalous Libel againſt His Majeſty and Government*; whenas it only contain'd Matter of Fact againſt ſome Commiſſioners. Well then, theſe Commiſſioners are the Government; and I am of opinion, if it be thus, that 'tis not worth our while to keep up twenty thouſand Men to ſupport it. Setting themſelves thus up, they leſſen the King and his Prerogative; as if the King had the Legiſlative, and they the governing Power. Evil Miniſters and Officers have in all Times prov'd prejudicial to the Prince that employ'd them; for they acting after an illegal and arbitrary manner in their ſeveral Stations, cauſe ſuſpicion that the Prince by whom they are commiſſionated, will, when enabled with Force, do the like, or worſe: and tho ill Miniſters and Officers may act illegally, and after an arbitrary manner, without the Knowledg, nay contrary to the Conſent and Approbation of the Prince; yet all their Actions tend to the weakning of his Government, and to create Jealouſies in his People. Men judg of the Fountain by the Purity or Impurity of the Streams; and Juſtice being deny'd or delay'd by Officers and Miniſters, they preſently look back to the original Contract and Coronation Oath, with a great deal of Doubt and Heſitation. It was a noble and glorious Saying of our great and renowned Prince *Edw.* 3. when he hang'd his Chief Juſtice *Thorp*, of the *King's-Bench*, for taking a Bribe of 100 *l. That he being intruſted as the King's Deputy, to adminiſter Juſtice in that Court, had as much as in him lay broken that Solemn Oath that his Majeſty made to his People at his Coronation.* Inſtead of a Land Force to defend Evil Miniſters, this wiſe Prince procur'd a Halter to hang them. If Men in great Offices have been guilty of enormous Crimes, have laviſhly ſpent and ſquander'd away Parliamentary Funds rais'd for the Security of the Nation, muſt the People of *England* make a rent in their Conſtitution, and raiſe and pay Twenty thouſand Men to maintain them in their vicious Practices, and ſecure them from the Violence and Inſults of the common People? They are grown already to ſuch a height, that there is no way of calling them to an Account. If an inferiour Board commit

commit a Crime, rob, embezel, plunder the Nation, and enrich themſelves with the Publick Spoils of the Kingdom; and a Complaint be made to the Lords of the T——ry, they refer it (after the Complainer has a long time attended) to the Board complain'd againſt: after a long attendance (five or ſix Months I have known it) a Report is made; the T——ry acquieſces with the Report, and the Complainer is fruſtrated of his honeſt Intentions. It is a Law amongſt 'em never to hear the Complaint of an Inferiour Officer againſt a Superiour; as one of the Commiſſioners of the Ex—ſe told a certain Perſon, that there was a ſecret Reſolution taken up by all the Commiſſioners in the Kingdom, that if an Inferiour Officer complain'd of Miſmanagement, they would repreſent him either as a Fool or a Knave, or elſe make him ſo uneaſy that he ſhould be forc'd to quit his Employment: and this appears to be true, for moſt, if not all the Officers that have complain'd of Miſmanagements, have been diſcharg'd for ſo doing. How then ſhall theſe Men be puniſhed? Why the laſt Reſort you know is a Parliament; and if you read over the Liſt, you will ſoon find how many Courtiers were there, Judges of their own Cauſe, and Auditors of their own Accounts. So that, Sir, I think you aſhoar are in a fine pickle, if ever theſe Men get a Standing Army to ſupport their Miſmanagements by point of Sword, and the powerful Arguments of Pike and Gun: For our Controverſy is not about truſting the King with a Standing Army, we pay Him all the Deference imaginable; but we are loth to be at the Charge of guarding of thoſe that have not regarded the Publick Good, nor thoſe worthy Gentlemen that ventur'd their Lives to bring the King to the Throne, and to promote them to Offices of Truſt and the greateſt Profit. Their reſtleſs Endeavours to gain this Point of a Standing Army, have other meanings in them than the ſpecious pretence of Publick Safety. When the Fox preaches, beware the Geeſe; there is ſome Fetch or other, ſome Snake or other in the Graſs, that will not wriggle it ſelf into view, but under the Umbrage of a Land Force. You muſt bear, Sir, with my homely Compariſons, as well as with my indifferent

different Language; we Tars don't pretend to polite Learning, and finery of Speech. But to illuſtrate my Diſcourſe, I muſt tell you, that the laſt Voyage I made was to *New England*, the Commander of the Ship I ſail'd in was a Man of Virtue and Probity, very skilful in Navigation, and one that had a due regard to the Profit and Advantage of his Owners. But the Mate, Boatſwain, Gunner, and other Officers, were Men of vicious Principles, and work'd ſo far upon the good Nature of the Captain, that they got entire poſſeſſion of him, to the no ſmall loſs of the Merchants, and the trouble of all the honeſt Sailors aboard. When we came to *New-England*, and had taken in our Loading, being homeward bound, they perſwaded him to take more Men, more Forces aboard, under pretence of Advice they had received from *England* of ſome *Turkiſh* Men of War that lay in the Chaps of the Engliſh Channel. The poor Captain believ'd a neceſſity upon ſuch plauſible pretences of augmenting his Forces, being unwilling to have his Ship pirated from him: The Forces were raiſing apace, when it was diſcover'd that theſe Fellows had a deſign to run away with the Ship; ſo that had their Deſign taken effect, the good natur'd Captain had been thrown overboard, and I had now been among the *Madagaſcar* Pirates. Ill men contrive all ways, firſt to raiſe themſelves by Villany, and then to ſupport themſelves in it. The ſame Effect your Land-Force may have upon you; Your Captain I know is a good Commander, of Principle and Addreſs, and I verily believe deſigns you no harm: but his under Officers, if they deſign'd you any good, would have done it before this time. Beſides, if you have a mind to keep your King, keep him from a Standing Army: King *James* had been here ſtill, had it not been for his Standing Army, an Army model'd by the Vipers which lay in his boſom for that very purpoſe. I like the Effects of that Deſign ſo well, that I deſire no more of that nature: We have a Government founded upon good Principles; a Revolution of which every ſtep has been attended by Divine Providence; a King, who governs according to the Rules of Juſtice at home, and is the Head and Leader of our Armies abroad, to his own immortal Honour, and the Good

and

and Welfare of his People; and every good Engliſhman and Chriſtian ought to bleſs God for it. But Revolutions in a Nation are like Fevers in the Body natural, which advancing too often, prey upon the Vitals to the deſtruction of the whole *Compoſitum*; and tho we have lately known it did, yet they ſeldom happen without damage either to the Royal Prerogative, or the Franchiſes of the People, both which ought to be kept inviolable; and ſince they are ſo at preſent, I know no reaſon why we ſhould put either in danger for the future. An Engliſh King, and an Engliſh People, ſute well together; and ſince we are bleſt with both, we have no reaſon to promote new Whimſeys in the head of one, to create Jealouſies in the other. The Notion of an Invaſion from the Man abroad is not ſo much a Propoſition of Horror, as the Notion of our Liberties being invaded at home; and we are in more danger of thoſe Horſe-leaches of Government that fill themſelves from the Veins of the State, than from Foreign Troops. Money is the Sinews of War; but the Sinews once weakned, the Body is in a tottering Condition. A Standing Army muſt be fed, and when once without Pay, muſt live upon Free-quarter; for there is no reaſon that Men rais'd for the ſervice of their Country, ſhould ſtarve in it. I would fain know what theſe Men would do with a Standing Army, unleſs (as before) to guard them from the Violence of the Mob. Where ſhould they encamp, to be in a readineſs to oppoſe an Invaſion? Had they as many Armies as there are landing places in *England*, we might have ſome Security. Few of theſe Men that talk of Standing Armies, have had the Courage to go abroad to the Wars; but now perhaps for their Diverſion, at the expence of the Kingdom, they are willing to ſee *Namur* taken at *Windſor*, or a Butterfly Camp at *Hounſlow-Heath*, where the Forces muſt attend the Motions of the Man abroad:

Where the Knights Errant lie with Legs acroſs,
Expecting what muſt never come to paſs,

The Sky falling to the utter deſtruction of the whole Species of Larks; French Invaders in Fleets of flying Wheelbarrows, and

and abundance of ſuch odd Chimera's, if not worſe. How will they model this Army? as they have done the Civil Offices? Will they fill Commiſſions with rancour'd Tories, confirm'd Jacobites, and Non-Jurors? Shall Men of Worth, Merit and Affection to the Government, be as ſcarce in this Army as they are in the Cuſtoms and Navy? God forbid! How many years Purchaſe muſt a Commiſſion be ſold for; and where will be the place of Sale, and who the Broker, now Sir *Fleet* is dead? Few of the King's, and their Country's Friends, have got Money to buy; muſt they be ſold to thoſe that got Pardon-money in the late Reigns, or thoſe that are ſtarving ſince this Revolution? Well, there may be a formidable Invaſion, and the Nation in a great deal of Danger thereupon. The whole Strength of the Nation is not able to withſtand it, and yet the Party pretend that Twenty thouſand Men out of that Strength ſhall do it; that is as much as to ſay, ſeven Millions of Men are not able to withſtand an Invaſion, but Twenty thouſand of the ſeven Millions are; the *Minor* is of greater force, power and virtue than the *Major*: if the Folk in power ſay ſo, 'tis true enough; better a Nation be ruined, enſlav'd, or any thing elſe, than they be thought to err in Judgment, or miſs their Ends. But ſuppoſe the worſt, that a French Army ſhould land; why then if we han't a Standing Army, the great Places at *White-Hall* will be in a tottering condition: but ſuppoſe they don't land, and we have a Standing Army in expectation of it; why then the great Folk at *White-Hall* are all the time fingering the Money raiſed to pay them, not to their diſadvantage to be ſure. 'Tis no matter whether we are invaded or no, as long as their Trade goes forward. Now tho your Earthquakes don't diſturb the Element I ſojourn on, yet I may give my Opinion concerning your Affairs as well as ſome of you have as to the Management of the Fleet, that know no other difference betwixt Salt Water and Freſh than by the Taſte. I remember I was at an Anchor in *Shetland-Bay*, when there was juſt ſuch another Invaſion in the Iſle of *Purbeck*, as your Folk expect. If there was then any Standing Army, they were guarding the Royal Ducks in St. *James*'s Park, or otherwiſe employ'd; but I am ſure they

were not there. Now without any Royal Mandate, Commiſſion, or any Order from above, the bold *Britons* aſſembled in a hoſtile manner, with all the Weapons of Defence the Country could afford; and without any Ceremony march'd to the Place of landing: The Rumour of the French Numbers was Ten thouſand, and in 48 hours there were a Hundred thouſand in Arms in *Dorſetſhire*, and the adjoining Counties, who came down time enough to the Sea ſide to engage the Invaders. I believe if theſe Hodmandods, Rawheads and Bloody-bones, with which the Children of *England* are now ſcar'd, ſhould appear, we ſhall be in a good poſture of defence, without Twenty thouſand Red Coats, which are more terrifying than an Invaſion.

Now theſe Bugbears and Scarecrows, this Viſionary Invaſion that haunts the Ruins of *White-Hall*, being remov'd out of ſight, let us recover our Senſes, and ſcan the point, whether the Militia regulated and diſciplin'd may not be as powerful to withſtand an Invaſion, as Twenty thouſand of that Militia (for every one capable of bearing Arms belongs to it) liſted and entered into Pay. But they ſay the Militia is not diſciplin'd; whoſe Fault is that? Was it not in their power that contend for a Standing Army, to have diſciplin'd the Militia ſince the Controverſy in the Houſe of Commons laſt Seſſions about it? If the Officers of the Militia can't be truſted, 'tis the fault of thoſe that made 'em Officers. A Negligence in this Point, and trumping up a Standing Army at the ſame time, looks as if their Army were to do ſome buſineſs the Militia will not do; for it is evident the Militia can do more than twenty times the Forces they deſire, when neceſſity ſhall require it. Beſides, Twenty thouſand Men diſpers'd are no Army; their being in a body makes them one, but a body can be only in one place at a time. We have abundance of Landing-places, and our Army can be but at one of them, and I know already the Invaders won't land there. Now on the other hand, they can land no where in *England*, but the Militia will be at the place, enough of them to make a ſtand till the reſt come up; ſo that if we had a

Standing

Standing Army. the greateſt uſe of them at that Juncture would be to come in for the Plunder of the field. I might add more on this head, were it not vanity to urge Reaſons to juſtify a thing that is beyond diſpute. But the Authors for an Army, like Mr. *Bays* in the *Rehearſal*, are reſolved to preſent the World with ſomething very ridiculous, and have not yet determined the point whether the two Kings of *Bremford* ſhall head their Standing Army with both Boots on, or one off.

As I don't know the deſigns, ſo I am ignorant of the Conſequences of what theſe Men make ſuch a buſtle about; but it tends to create a Miſtruſt in the King of his beſt Subjects, and tells him plainly he cannot be ſecure in his Throne, and enjoy his Prerogative, without making an Alteration in our Conſtitution; and that the People's Liberty, and the Regalities of the Crown cannot be ſafe at the ſame time. Now, if I ſhould aver, that our Conſtitution muſt of neceſſity tumble down, if a Branch of the King's Prerogative were not lopt off to make a prop to ſupport it, I ſuppoſe the Secretary of State would eſteem it a State Crime, and I ſhould be viſited with the plague of a Meſſenger; when at the ſame time theſe Authors raiſe Bulwarks, and plant their Cannons upon them to batter down our Conſtitution, break down the Fences of our Liberty, and deſtroy thoſe Privileges which have immemorially been the Rights of our Anceſtors; and all this conniv'd at, if not encouraged. Have the Liberties of the People no Guardians? Are there none to proſecute ſuch Offendors in the name of the Good People of *England?* Where is the Juſtice, Glory, and Honour of our Anceſtors? Are all their glorious Marks obliterated in their Poſterity? Are the ends of the World come upon us, that we are willing to ſee an end of our Liberty? Are our Rights leſs valuable, our Laws of leſs force than formerly? Are we ignominiouſly willing to give away what our Fore-fathers left us at the expence of their Blood? God forbid that the Children unborn ſhould curſe us as cruel Step-fathers that have diſinherited them of their Birthright. Will not ſucceeding Generations think, that either our

Rights

Rights were not worth keeping, or that we inglorioufly betrayed our Children in parting with them? Will not the Roman Honour and Gallantry, which inſpired Heathens newly acquainted with Laws and Principles of Government, riſe up in Judgment againſt us, when we prove treacherous Deſerters of our Liberties, and raiſe and pay Twenty thouſand Men to take poſſeſſion of our Freehold? Are not thoſe who ſurrender'd Charters, gave away their Birth-right, and betray'd the Liberties of their Country in the late Reigns, juſtly branded with the marks of Infamy, and their Memories handed down to Poſterity as ignominious and ſcandalous? And ſhall we, who have ſpent ſo many Millions to undo what they did, and retrieve our ſinking State from utter Ruin, tread in their ſteps, act the ſame Tragedy, and play over the ſame Game? Was a Standing Army but a few years ago, accounted a Grievance, and now become a thing deſirable? Is it not attended with the ſame danger, or are we grown leſs ſenſible of it? Are we in the ſame condition with thoſe that are troubled with the French Diſeaſe, of whom it is ſaid, when once cured they are more deſirous to commit the Sin again? Are we clapt in our Underſtandings, that we are willing to return into the ſame languiſhing Condition, of which we are ſo lately recovered, and have pay'd ſo dear for the Cure? Let the Pleaders for a Standing Army conſider, how much a Standing Army was accounted a Grievance in the late Reigns, and how much it tended to the deſtruction of the King that rais'd it, and they may eſteem their deſigns impracticable; for it can be no other than a Reflection upon the Wiſdom of the Engliſh Nation, voluntarily to give one King what they forc'd from another, to ſecure themſelves in the peaceable poſſeſſion of their Eſtates: and no wiſe Man can imagine, that in a Government founded on good and wholeſom Laws, a thing that turn'd one King out of the Throne, ſhould keep another in it. If you have the ſame People to manage this Standing Army, that managed the late K. *James*'s, you have the ſame People to oppoſe this Standing Army as oppos'd the other; and in all likelihood you'l be brought into the ſame Diſorder and Confuſion: wherefore I think, all things conſidered, you had better be without it.

Thus

Thus far, Sir, I have ventur'd out of my Element, to give you my Sentiments of Affairs aſhoar; now ſuffer me to ſtep aboard my Ship, and give an account of another Security to our Kingdom little heeded or talk'd of, I mean our Shipping. It is ſuppoſed theſe horrible Invaders will not fly over the Seas in the Air, nor will they ſhove themſelves over in leaden Boats under Water; they are compounded of Fleſh, Blood and Bones, contrary to the nature of Spirits; they are viſible and tangible Subſtances: therefore let us conſider how we Sailors may handle them; for it is a demonſtrable Argument, if we can drown or burn them at Sea, you'l have no occaſion of a Land Army to knock 'em oth' head aſhoar. By your inſiſting ſo much upon a Land Force as neceſſary to withſtand an Invaſion, you ſeem to yield up the Empire and Dominion of the Sea, which I am very unwilling to grant, knowing the Engliſh have no Rivals in that Affair, nor no Nation capable of taking poſſeſſion of that Dominion. If we could beat an Enemy at *la Hogue*, and burn fourteen of their three Deck Ships at one time, and might have quite ruin'd them at Sea then, had it not been for the wonderful good Nature of you know who; I ſay, if we could do what they have not yet been able to recruit, nor perhaps never will unleſs we ſell 'em Timber to build more Ships; if they have loſt their Ships, and we have augmented ours by a far greater number than they have loſt, I hope we are not now leſs able to fight an Invader. I ſuppoſe the Diſembarkment of the Prince of *Orange* was carried on with as much ſecreſy as an Invaſion will be, yet we know how long it was talk'd of, and how long expected before it came. Conſider in the next place, how many Ships an Invader muſt have to bring over Men enow to conquer this Kingdom. Now if ſix or ſeven hundred Ships were requiſite to bring over at moſt but Fourteen thouſand five hundred Men, how many will be neceſſary to make an Invaſion upon *England* in order to conquer it? Their numbers muſt be much greater, they come without leave and undeſired; and Invaders let 'em be of, what Country ſoever, or of what Religion ſoever, are hated by Engliſhmen. The Prince of *Orange*'s Deſcent upon *England* was

no Invaſion but an Invitation, and his Acceſſion to the Throne no Conqueſt (whatever two or three inſignificant Prieſts have wrote) but the free Gift and Benevolence of the good People of *England*. Yet notwithſtanding all Parties were agreed in this Revolution, how many Accidents happen'd? How often was the Fleet detain'd by contrary Winds? and when at Sea, forc'd to ſteer a Channel Courſe, and in a Line too, which made 'em ſeen by both Shores. But this Invading Fleet that muſt have at leaſt ten times the number of Men, and conſequently of Shipping, are to come over undiſcover'd. From what Place will they come? Why this is the main point; the honeſt Men in Offices tell of an Invaſion, and it is to be done by ſomebody, that they will not dare name for fear of being Gazetted, and ordered to be proſecuted, as *Dick Baldwin* was for reflecting upon ſome great Perſon at the French Court: They had better run the hazard of Proſecution, and tell the truth; the Proſecution may be bought off, Mr. *Baldwin* gave but eight Guinea's to *Harry B* —— and three to his Brother *N*—— and the Proſecution was at an end. But this Invaſion can't be brib'd off, the Invaders will not ſtay for Gratuities, all is their own when they have conquer'd, and into this Condition we may be brought, becauſe our Standing Army-men are mealy mouth'd, and won't ſpeak out. An Invaſion may well be a Propoſition of Horror to them, when the very Invaders and the Country they come from, cramps their Tongues, and frightens them ſpeechleſs, ſo that Twenty thouſand Men and nothing elſe, can bring them again to their Senſes. If they would tell us the Country they'l come from, I could give you my opinion in the matter; if I knew their Country, I ſhould know their Ports, and what Conveniencies they have for ſhipping their Men; but I'm ſure they have no Conveniency of landing them in *England* unleſs we pleaſe: All we can learn from them is, that 'tis the *Man abroad*, and abundance of Men there are abroad, and which of 'em 'tis we can't tell; this *Man* may be ſomebody or nobody, or anybody or everybody, ſince he has no name. He may be the Man in the Moon for ought we know, and then we are in a fine condition; his is a Country we know nothing of, nor what kind of People he will bring with him

him, nor what ſort of Weapons they uſe in Battel: He is certainly an Enemy, becauſe he is no Friend, and a powerful Enemy too; his Dominions are very large, and for ought we know very populous; and if he ſhould deſcend upon *Salisbury Plain* with two or three hundred thouſand Mortals, why then the Cathedral Church there will be invaded by Men of a ſtrange Religion, that have not been educated to mumble the Prayers in *uſum Sarum*, and the beſt *ſtake* in the Hedg of one of our *Biſhops* is quite loſt. The more I think of it, the more am I terrify'd at the Apprehenſion of ſuch an Invaſion; what a horrid terrifying Spectacle will it be to ſee Men (nay for ought we know Monſters) deſcend like Hail upon our Country; where our Ships can't come, and nothing but Twenty thouſand regular Troops can oppoſe? How will our Women and Children be frighted, and our old Men aſtoniſhed at ſuch an Apparition, worſe than that at *Purbeck!* Now I ſhould think it moſt proper, to prevent an Invaſion from this Country, to ſend an Ambaſſador thither: We have not given the Man, nor any of his Subjects, any affront that I know of; and a Truce or Peace is far better than War, as the Turks and Germans on both ſides affirm; and we have Men of Parts and Senſe enough in our Nation to ſend on ſuch an Embaſſy: We know the Country is very high, yet we are provided with very high Flyers in our Government, that have mounted from Footboys, Journeymen and Valets, to Commiſſioners, and other great Officers; one or two of theſe on this Embaſſy may put an end to our Fears, and render Twenty thouſand armed Men uſeleſs: I could pick a Man or two out of our Officers fit for this Embaſſy, that have riſen with a wonderful Impudence at home, and will no doubt carry a good Stock abroad with them. Theſe high Flyers have one Conveniency in mounting above the reſt of Mankind, they have no weight of Brains to retard their Flight upwards; and if there is any Money in the World in the Moon, they'l load enough in their Pockets to haſten their deſcent downwards. If they ſay my Invaſion is ridiculous, I ſay ſo of theirs, as alſo of Twenty thouſand Men to withſtand it, and keep out a Force which all *England* beſide can't do.

Well,

Well, it seems we must still be in the dark about this Invasion, the Army Authors won't tell us whence it will come, and yet tell us a dismal Story of its coming; so that we are left to bare supposition, which puts nothing at all into being, but is the Foster-father of Non entities: We have suppos'd it from above the Clouds already, let us descend and view the Terrestrial Globe, view the Coasts of our Neighbours, and see from which of them all a Fleet of Ships can lanch forth into the deep, and pass the Ocean with an Army without Obstruction from the Royal Navy: 'Tis Nonsense to suppose this Invasion to come from *Holland*, which so lately assisted us with Forces in order to recover our lost Liberties; those that help'd knock our Fetters off, will not be for putting them on so soon already. But suppose *Holland* had a design upon *England*, let us consider how impracticable such a design would be, whilst *England* has so good a Fleet of Ships of War: Those Auxiliary Forces they lent the good People of *England* upon the Revolution, met with abundance of Obstacles and Difficulties in shipping the Horses and Men, which kept the Enterprize so far back, that the very Regiments, the Names of the Colonels commanding those Regiments, and an exact Account of the Number of the Men, Horse and Foot, was printed in the English Gazette long before they saw the Coast of *England*; so that the English Nation had then as much time to prepare to oppose them, had they been willing, as they had to prepare to receive them; *Volenti non fit injuria.* The Revolution pleas'd the Nation, if the major part of the People may be call'd so. But had these been Invaders, as they were the Auxiliary Troops of the People of *England*, entertain'd in their Service by their own Consent; the Fleet then under the Command of the Earl of *Dartmouth*, and in a proper Station too, could easily have obstructed that Expedition: But the Seamen were in a Confederacy with the Landmen in the Interest of their Country, and I hope in God ever will be; and it is not often the English Fleet has let an Armed Navy pass through their Channel without one Broadside.

We

We muſt imagine it not to come from *France* immediately after the Ratification of a ſolemn Peace, ſo honourable to the Engliſh Nation: But ſuppoſe *France* at any time ſhould have the Vanity to invade *England*, will not our Navy be ſufficient to put a ſtop to ſuch an Invaſion? The French Councils perhaps are as ſecret as any in the World, and tho vulgar Eyes cannot pry into the Cabinets of that Prince, yet his firſt and ſecond Rate Men of War are eaſily diſcerned; I hope they'l rig their Ships before they put them to Sea, they'l careen, and gun, and man them, and all this can't be done in a Chimney Corner: Their Caulkers, Hammers, and Carpenters adzes, will make ſome noiſe; we ſhall hear ſomething of it ſure. Conſider their Ports, and where their Ships are laid up, and you may eaſily conclude they can't ſoon join upon ſuch a deſign: *Breſt* is the moſt commodious and moſt frequented Port with Men of War, but not capable of containing them all, and if it could, they can't enter the Ocean at once; and 'tis but very bad riding in *Camaret Bay* for ſome, till the reſt join them; ſome are laid up at *Marſeilles*, *Thoulon*, *Havre de Grace*, *Port Lewis*, *Rochfort*, &c. beſides ſome at *Dunkirk*; from which place they can't come out with their Guns on Board; and while they are taking their Guns in, if we can annoy 'em, we may have Intelligence of them. Beſides, they muſt rendezvouz ſomewhere, and that Wind which brings one half of the Fleet to the place of rendezvouz, keeps the other half back; ſo that if the Peace did not put us out of this danger, our Fleet would be a ſufficient Guard againſt it.

Spain is in a firm Alliance with us, and had a good Belly-full of Invaſion in 88, which is not yet digeſted, and the Northern Crowns never made any Pretenſions of this nature; ſo that I dare boldly affirm we are in no danger of an Invaſion from any known part of the World, and the *Terra Incognita* is a long way off.

In the ſhort view I have taken of the Condition of our Neighbours, and their ſtrength in Shipping, compar'd with the Naval Force and Maritime Strength of *England*, I believe if all

of them ſhould intend an Invaſion upon *England*, they could not accompliſh it. For, as I have ſaid before, it cannot be done but we muſt have notice of it; and while they are fitting out their Fleet we may do the ſame: our Fleet being out, and divided into Squadrons, appointed in proper Stations, would eaſily intercept them; it will be eaſy enough known when they firſt put to Sea, if we have a ſufficient number of Advice Boats abroad under the Command of able and honeſt Sailors, and two of them ſtill in company: my Reaſon is, that as ſoon as they find the Enemy under ſail, the worſt Sailor of the two ſhould take the advantage of the Wind, and the other ply to Windward to give the two neareſt Squadrons notice thereof. Now we'll ſuppoſe the worſt, that the Enemy ſhall have the advantage of a Liſt of the Stations of our Ships, as I have heard they formerly have had; why then their buſineſs is to ſail in a direct Line betwixt two of our Squadrons: for ſhould they ſail in a Line of Battel, ſtretching Eaſt and Weſt, and keep their Tenders in the ſame Line, which they muſt do to guard them, this Line muſt be of an extravagant length; the Prince of *Orange*'s Fleet could not form their Half Moon till paſt the Skirts of *Dover*. Thus in all probability each Wing of the Invading Fleet will touch upon a Squadron of Engliſhmen of War; and all that underſtand Sea fighting will conclude this muſt needs be to the diſadvantage of the Invading Fleet. Suppoſe they ſail in a ſtrait Line North and South, to prevent diſcovery by ſpreading too much room, their Tenders muſt be placed either in the Front or the Rear of their Fleet; for their Ships of War muſt keep in a body, and it is our buſineſs only to fall upon their Tenders and Tranſport Ships, and a few Men of War will ruin hundreds of ſuch Veſſels in a ſhort time, being not ſcattered, but in a body: for they muſt keep together, and as much under the protection of their Convoys as poſſible; and ſhould their Convoys engage our Men of War, and their Tranſports at the ſame time keep on their Courſe, in all probability they'l fall in with our Relieving Squadron that comes to the others aſſiſtance, and then they are totally ruined; or if during the Engagement they lye by to ſee the Event of the Fight, they are in as much danger of the Relieving Squadron. Nor is it practicable for the Tranſport Ships during the

the Engagement to ſail to the place of Landing, for their Men muſt land under covert of their Cannon, otherwiſe the Country Folk would ſhoot 'em like Seagulls, as faſt as they land: They'l never find a *Brixam* buſineſs of it; there's a wonderful difference betwixt Invaſion and Invitation, betwixt the Diſimbarkment of Auxiliary Troops, and an Army of Varlets and Cut-throats. If they ſhould be no better watch'd than the *Thoulon* and *Pointi*'s Squadron, and to the Scandal of the Engliſh Seamen, ſlip our Ships of War, and arrive on our Coaſt, I queſtion neither the Courage nor Conduct of the People of *England* in giving them ſuch a Reception as they deſerve.

Now the Uſefulneſs of a Fleet, as the beſt Guard to *England*, is evident, not only from Reaſon, but from undoubted Hiſtory, and plain Matter of Fact; many Inſtances whereof our Tars often at Sea talk and boaſt of, many of which I could inſtance in, were I not too far gone already beyond the Limits of a Letter. But however I muſt tack about again upon your Land Army Folk; and to avoid all Animoſities, Quarrels and Heats, I ſhall not tell how much nor how little was done during this War by the Land Army in *Flanders*; but ſhall only hint what might rationally have been done by the Fleet under a good Management and Conduct. Of ſo many Millions of Money that have been ſpent during this War in Land Forces, ſuppoſe ſome of that Money and thoſe Forces had been us'd on board the Navy, would not fifteen or twenty Thouſand of them thus employ'd have done more Miſchief to the Enemy than fifty or threeſcore Thouſand in *Flanders*? They might have landed in their Country, their ſenſible part, which we have ſo gently touch'd; ſuch a Force would have been ſufficient to have ravag'd 10 or 20 Miles round in their Country, and when the Enemy had got ſufficient Force together to repel them, they might e'en have march'd aboard again with their Plunder: and coaſting along their Country, in two or three days time have landed again a hundred Miles from the place they landed in before, and retired aboard as before, and practis'd this Trade along their Coaſt from Eaſt to Weſt; this would have been a tireſome Diverſion indeed: They would thus have had no time to ſow or reap, or dreſs their

their Vineyards; this would have diverted their Armies abroad, perpetually haraſs'd their Arrear-ban at home, kept their Peaſants from their Employments, and fill'd 'em with continual Fears and Alarms. Being kept continually waking, it might have alter'd the Temper of an imperious aſpiring Enemy; waking they ſay will tame a mad Horſe, why not a mad Tyrant? But whether our Miſmanagements have been occaſion'd thro Ignorance of the Managers, or thro an evil Deſign againſt our Country, is yet left to determine; but both are equally noxious to a Nation, and by continued Succeſſions of Grievances without redreſs, the moſt flouriſhing Kingdom, the moſt glorious Monarch, and moſt warlike People may at once be empoveriſh'd at home, and grow ſcandalous abroad; for nothing conduces more to the Honour and Glory of a Nation than the good opinion foreign States and Governments have of their Management; they'l give reſpect according to the Polity of their Government; if wiſe they'l court its Favour, if fooliſh they'l deſpiſe it: Tho a Man be ſtrong and rich, his Adverſary values it not, knowing his blind ſide, and how to cully him out of his Birth-right. The management of our Maritime Affairs has been the common Subject of all Tongues, as it has been the common Grievance of the Nation; and what makes it the more reſented by thoſe that have paid Money to the Managers, and been at the Charge of our Naval Force, is the mighty Advantage *England* has had over the Enemy in this point. Let us conſider the natural Advantage of our Dominions, the happy Situation of our Territories in order to annoy our Enemy: Let us (and that not without ſhame) look into the *Aquitain* Sea, and behold there the Iſlands of *Jerzey*, *Guernſey*, &c. in our poſſeſſion, juſt upon the Enemy's Coaſt, provided with Harbors, convenient Peers, ſafe Roads for Ships to ride in ſecure of all Tempeſts, overlooking the Enemy's Ships as they paſs from St. *Malo*, *Granvile*, &c. and at the ſame time to conſider that they have been of no other advantage during the War than an accidental Shelter to ſuch of our Ships as have touch'd there, is matter of amazement as well as miſcarriage. In the time of the Civil Wars Sir *Geo. Carteret* was then Governor of the Iſland of *Jerzey* in truſt for the Royal Family, and with about twelve or fourteen very ſmall Frigots ſo annoy'd *England*, that the Government then in being

being was fore'd to send a Fleet with considerable Forces to reduce that Island. Had we been wanting of Shipping during the War, the case would have been alter'd; but had a small number of our Ships cruiz'd in that Station, the very Prizes they would have taken had been sufficient to have paid the charge of the Ships, provided the said Prizes had not been converted to private uses, and sunk in Grants. I have often wonder'd the French during the War did not repossess themselves of those Islands, notwithstanding the sincere Affection of the Inhabitants to the present Government, their good Discipline and Native Courage: they would certainly have made some Insults upon those Islands, had they not reaped a greater Advantage by them than the possession of them would have amounted to; for from thence they were supply'd with Lead, Pitch, Tar, and other Necessaries of War, besides a settled Intelligence of the Affairs of *England*, and all this done by the King's own Officers. The Register of Certificates in the Island of *Jersey* was complained against at Court upon this account, and by his own Confession as well as by the Depositions of several Witnesses, convicted thereof before the Council, and by the Council discharg'd for the same. But such is the Fate of ill Men in Offices, and that do disservice to their Country, that soon after his discharge he was punished with a Landwaiter's Place in the Port of *London*, which Place he enjoys at this Juncture, as if the Priest of *Chausey* his traiterous Correspondent had absolv'd him from all his Sins, and made him again *rectus in Curia* at *White-Hall*. When there is a Concatenation of Villany in Publick Offices, one Link of the Chain must not be broken; if so, it is a Chain no longer. But this is a small Kindness in his Patron Sir *W. Y.* thus to advance the Brother, who has two of his Sisters to serve under him. Our Mismanagements every body knows, and we have Complainers enow, but the Difficulties we labour under is to find out Punishers: We have had sufficient Experience that the punishing of Criminals with good Offices and Employments, has had an Effect answerable to the Folly of the Project, to punish a Captain for giving away a 5th Rate to the Enemy, with preferring him to a fourth Rate, will never do our business. If you officer your Ships of War with *Rigby*'s, and man them with Landmen, christned by the name of Mareeners, you'l

make but an indifferent ſpot of work of it. And now I mention Mareeners, I would beg the favour of you, Sir, to keep them at home, and ſet 'em Sentinels over the Farmers Cocks and Hens; for they do us no other ſervice here than to eat up our Proviſions, make us lowſy, and ſtand in our way: Theſe amphibious Soldiers, that live either on Land or Water, are a Scandal to both, and ſerviceable on neither. We don't want Sailors now, and are willing to be freed from the Plague of Land-Lubbers; yet you ſee the Army-folk are deſirous of 'em, any thing rather than loſe their point; an Army they would have, tho it were of Tatterdemalions, while the Credit, Reputation, and Uſefulneſs of the Engliſh Navy is ſunk, and overſet by a ſort of Men that have a Neceſſity for a Land Force, to the ruin of our Country, and the loſs of our Birth-rights.

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